

Environmental Justice

Spring/Summer 2003



“No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

-Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Environmental Justice

A 1994 Presidential Order directed every Federal Agency to make environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing the effects of all programs, policies, and activities on “minority and low-income populations.” Reinforcing the message of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, it ensured that every federally funded project nationwide consider the human environment in the planning and decision making process.

SCAG's Environmental Justice Policy

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for six Southern California counties, pursuing and developing solutions to transportation, housing, air quality and other regional issues, SCAG has adopted a policy that ensures that environmental justice principles are integral to all planning processes. SCAG:

- analyzes its programs to determine their impact on the environment, health & safety, and economy of all the region's residents.
- provides early and meaningful public participation in decision-making processes.
- seeks out and considers input from traditionally underrepresented groups.

- considers alternative approaches or proposes mitigating measures when disproportionately high and adverse impacts on low- income or minority populations are identified.

- evaluates and responds, as needed, to environmental justice issues that arise during the implementation of regional plans.

Environmental Justice and the 2004 RTP

Over the course of the next year, as the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan nears completion, SCAG will be evaluating all plan alternatives to determine if implementation would result in disproportionately adverse impacts on low-income, minority, elderly or disabled populations. Areas to be analyzed include Plan expenditures, accessibility, congestion (time savings), noise and air quality. An extensive outreach program will solicit input and feedback from every segment of the population regarding plan alternatives and analyses before release of a Draft Plan later this year.

For more information, contact Nancy Pfeffer at 213.236.1869 or pfeffer@scag.ca.gov.

Or visit the SCAG Web site at: www.scag.ca.gov



Resolving Regional Challenges

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